

CONFIDENTIAL

THRU Assistant Director for Collection & Dissemination
Assistant Director for Operations, *11 pbc, aug 51*
Chief, Foreign Documents Division, OO

27 July 1951

Japanese Foreign Office Documents

REFERENCE: a. Memorandum for Director of Intelligence, GSUSA, from AD/OCD,
dated 4 August 1949, subject: "Return to Japanese Government
of Documents Captured in Japan".

1. Attached message from CINCFE, number C 67380, dated 20 July 1951,
requests advice on return of documents confiscated from the Japanese Foreign
Office Archives by Washington Document Center (Adv) in February 1946 to the
Japanese Government.

2. An identical request was contained in CINCFE message, number Z
14933, dated 27 June 1949, to which the Assistant Director for Collection
and Dissemination replied in a memorandum addressed to the Director of Intel-
ligence, GSUSA, on 4 August 1949 (ref. a. above).

3. This office is of the opinion that reference a. adequately answers
the request of CINCFE contained in the attached message.

J. J. RAGNALL

Dist:

original and 1 to addressee
2 to AD/OO *✓ subject*
1 to Chief, FDD/OO

Army and State Department review(s) completed.

Nazi/Japanese War Crimes Task Force review completed

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4 August 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, GSUSA

SUBJECT: Return to Japanese Government of documents
captured in Japan

REFERENCE: CINCPAC TOKYO JAPAN incoming message IN W35898
dated 27 June to DEPT OF ARMY, Action: ID(CIA)

1. All but a very few of the documents referred to in subject message have been transferred by this Agency to custody of the Library of Congress or of the National Archives in accordance with Executive Order 9784 dated 25 September 1946 and Federal Law 44 USCA 366.

2. General Counsel of this Agency has stated the opinion that the question of ultimate disposition of the documents is one solely within the competence of the Archivist.

JAMES M. ANDREWS
Assistant Director
Office of Collection and Dissemination

OCD:JMA/fjc

cc: General Counsel
FDB via OO ✓
CIA Archivist
Liaison Branch

00 ✓ 2 copies sent to FDB on
8 Aug 49 for info pencils.
a. e. h.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Deputy Assistant Director for Operations
FROM : Acting Chief, FDB
SUBJECT: Request for Return of Japanese Documents

DATE: 15 July 1949

1. Reference is made to attached incoming unclassified message No. Z 14933 from CINCFE, Tokyo.

2. Investigation by this office reveals that approximately 95 percent of the items referred to have been forwarded to the Library of Congress, and a small percentage have been forwarded to the National Archives. The few remaining documents are still in FDB. Disposition of these documents was made in accord with Executive Order 9784 dated 25 September 1946 and Federal Law 44 USCA 366.

3. These Japanese documents are not jointly owned but are exclusively the property of the US Government. SANACC 400 (Release of Information from Captured Enemy Documents) is not applicable in this case.

4. At one time General Hildring's office of the State Department, which was concerned with Occupied Areas, contacted us relative to the question of the return of these documents. However, as far as we know, no action was taken by his office nor has any applicable State Department paper been written on this matter.



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W. J. BAGWELL

Encl: Copy of Incoming Unclassified Message Z 14933.

001 ✓ Carbon of this memo, orig. buckslip 5 July 49 from DAD/00 to FDB, and copy of Unclassified Message No. Z14933, forwarded to OGD ^{for action} on 21 July 49 per attached copy of buckslip, 21 July. ACG

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FORM NO. 35-5
AUG 1948

INCOMING UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PLAIN TEXT

PAGE No.

FROM: CINCFC TOKYO JAPAN

ROUTINE

TO: DEPT OF THE ARMY

27 JUNE 49

ACTION: 00/FDB (1)

IN W35898

INFORMATION: 00 (2) ✓

NR: Z 14933

FROM: CINCFC TOKYO JAPAN

TO: DEPT OF ARMY PASS TO CIA

INFO: CSGID

REQUEST FROM FOREIGN OFFICE, JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR RETURN OF DOCUMENTS CONFISCATED BY WASHINGTON DOCUMENTS CENTER ADVANCE IN FEBRUARY 1946 RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS. REQUESTED DOCUMENTS LISTED ON SHIPPING ADVICES 15030, 15039 AND RETURNED DOCUMENTS LISTS NUMBERS 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 47, 49, 49, 52, 53, 54, 61, 62, 68, 72, 78, 79, 80, 90 WITH EXCEPTION OF 406 DOCUMENTS STILL IN THIS THEATER, WERE EVACUATED TO WASHINGTON DOCUMENT CENTER CIA.

REQUEST COMMENTS REGARDING RETURN TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OF REQUESTED DOCUMENTS HELD LOCALLY AND POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING RETURN OF ORIGINALS OR COPIES OF DOCUMENTS NOW IN CIA FILES.

ACTION: ID(CIA)

MC-IN 54674

(27 JUNE 49) DTG 270729Z

1732Z 30 JUNE 49

TOR:

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30 December 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, DIVISION OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: Japanese Documents

Reference: a. Memorandum from the Department of State, dated
12 December 1947, subject as above, (JUCHNG).

1. The Foreign Documents Branch, which assumed the responsibilities of the Washington Documents Center in December 1946, has checked the WDC files for the material requested by the Netherlands Government. According to the records, almost all of the documents received from the former Headquarters SEATIC at Singapore were forwarded to the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. This section, known as PACMIRS, was operated under the direction of the Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff. Examination of available PACMIRS records indicates that approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of SEATIC documents were destroyed by PACMIRS.

2. If the Department of State thinks it desirable, Foreign Documents Branch could undertake a survey to determine whether any of the documents in question, which are not definitely identified as having been destroyed by PACMIRS, are currently available in the Washington area. A search for specific SEATIC numbered documents now desired by the Netherlands Government could perhaps be undertaken on the basis of the lists mentioned in reference (a) as having been compiled in Batavia. If any such documents were uncovered, your office would be notified, and arrangements could be made to have the documents transferred, as provided by Executive Order 9748, either to the Department of State or to the National Archives as preferred. Plans for the transfer of all remaining SEATIC and ATIS documents from Foreign Documents Branch to the National Archives are already under consideration, and the representative of the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation could doubtless inspect them there after the transfer is effected. It is contrary to CIA policy to permit foreign nationals to have direct access to CIA buildings and files.

3. It should be noted that large quantities of documents concerning the Netherlands East Indies have been received directly from Japan. These are at present being screened by the Foreign Documents Branch for intelligence purposes. Those not retained for the needs of this office are forwarded to the Library of Congress or the National Archives as appropriate.

Comm: SLD

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It is doubtful, however, that many of these documents were originally collected in the Netherlands East Indies, since they are written in Japanese.

4. When the State Department or its representative in Amsterdam communicates further with the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation regarding this matter, it appears that it would be well to point out that in letter of 30 May 1947, addressed by the Institute directly to the Central Intelligence Agency, (copy of which is enclosed for your ready reference) there is simply a general inquiry as to whether the Washington Document Center contains "material which is of interest for the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies during the second world war" and as to whether, if such material is available, it would be possible that it should be examined by representatives of the Institute and photocopied on behalf of the Institute. On the basis of this general inquiry, the Central Intelligence Agency furnished advice to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence as indicated in attached copy of memorandum dated 26 June 1947, which transmitted the original Netherlands Institute letter to the Department for appropriate action. At that time, CIA had no information that the Institute was especially interested in SKATIC documents. Had this Agency been aware of the specific class of documents that the Institute wished to examine, the CIA memorandum of 26 June would have reported to the State Department the same information contained in Paragraph 2 hereof, viz. that approximately ninety-five per cent (95%) of SKATIC documents were destroyed by PACMIRS.

EDWIN L. SIBERT
Brigadier General, USA

1 Inclosure
Memo fr OCD to State,
dtd 26 Jun 47, w/1 incl.

LAD/hbd

CC: OCD -1
FDB -1
Gen Rec - 1

WFO/ru
25 June 1947

25 June 1947

WFO/ru: Special Assistant to the Secretary in Charge of Research and Intelligence, Department of State

WFO/ru: Netherlands request for CIG material

1. Enclosed is letter dated 30 May 1947 addressed to the Central Intelligence Group by Mrs L. de Jong, Acting Director of the Netherlands State Institute of War Documentation, wherein inquiry is made as to whether representatives of the Institute may examine and obtain photocopies of certain historical material at the Documents Branch, CIG.

2. It is considered best for CIG not to correspond directly with the Netherlands Institute in this matter. The letter is therefore re-forwarded herewith for appropriate action in the light of the facts herein-after stated.

3. In addition to large quantities of captured Japanese documents which contain information of intelligence value, the Documents Branch has received many thousands of documents which are primarily of historical interest and have very little or no intelligence value. Only a small portion of the historical documents have been processed and catalogued, the great mass of them being stored in CIG warehouse facilities. Although some of these documents may contain information which would be of interest for the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies, a project of considerable magnitude would have to be undertaken in order to locate the desired documents and comply with the request that they be made available for examination and be photocopied. Due to the heavy workload on high priority intelligence matters, it would not be practicable to initiate such a project.

"Signed"

Deputy Assistant Director for
Collection and Dissemination

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RIJKSINSTITUUT VOOR DE DOCUMENTATIE EN DE
GESCHIEDSCHRIFTEN VAN NEDERLAND IN OORLOGSTIJD)

Directie: Prof. Mr. H. W. Posthumus, A'dam; Prof. Mr. B.H. D. Harnesdorf,
Wijmegen; Prof. Dr. E. W. Sneller, Rotterdam

Amsterdam, May 30th 1947
Tel. 30055

Central Intelligence Group
Office of Collection and Dissemination
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Immediately after the liberation of Holland a State Institute of War Documentation was set up by the Netherlands Government. For the past two years this Institute has been engaged in collecting all sorts of information, printed and unprinted, on the history of the Netherlands during the second world war.

Recently representatives of the Institute have been given access by the Washington State Department and the London Foreign Office to the German Foreign Office records now stored in Berlin. Similarly the Institute has been given access to the U. S. Berlin Document Centre. Both the Foreign State Department Document Centre and the U. S. Document Centre proved to contain many documents which were of paramount interest for our Institute and of which photocopies will be made available to us. We have undertaken not to publish or to allow to be published any material acquired in this way without consent of the American and British authorities.

We have been told that it is possible that the Washington Document Centre may also contain material which is of interest for the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies during the second world war.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could inform me whether any such material has been received by the Washington Document Centre; if so, whether it is still in your possession and whether it would be desirable and possible that it should be examined by representatives of our Institute and photocopied on our behalf.

Yours most sincerely

/s/ Drs L. de Jong
Acting Director of the Netherlands
State Institute of War Documentation.

COPY

AD/OCD

AD/00

16 December 1947

The attached memorandum from Mr. Neal, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, subject: "Japanese Documents", was delivered directly to this Office by the Department of State. A copy is forwarded for your information and file, and the reply to the request will be coordinated with you before being forwarded to the Department of State.

EDWIN L. LIBERT
Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Director for Operations

LAD/hbd

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



December 12, 1947

In reply refer to
FC:HHG

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To: Brigadier General Edwin L. Siebert,
Central Intelligence Agency.

From: Jack D. Neal,
JDN Chief, Division of
Foreign Activity Correlation.

Subject: Japanese Documents

The Department has received from the Netherlands Embassy at Washington a note dated November 14, 1947, which refers to a request made by the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation concerning the possibility of examining certain Japanese documents now in storage under the supervision of the Washington Documents Center, and then states:

"On August 11th 1947 the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation was informed under instruction from the Department of State by the American Consulate General at Amsterdam that it had not been possible to provide the funds or personnel which would be required to sort out and catalogue those documents for their historical interest or value; they largely remain in warehouses pending a decision as to their ultimate disposition.

"The Netherlands authorities fully understand the difficulties presented by the request of the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation. They have, however, been informed that large quantities of documents of historical value, collected in the Netherlands East Indies, have been dispatched to the Washington Document Center, most of them via the former H.Q. SEATIC at Singapore. Lists of some of those documents compiled by the

Netherlands

UNCLASSIFIED

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Netherlands authorities at Batavia, show that they contain important information on the history of the Netherlands East Indies, both before and during the second world war.

"The Netherlands Government would be grateful if in the near future the necessary searches could be made in order to determine whether this and perhaps other allied material has, in fact, been received at the Washington Document Center. It might be helpful if the searches could be undertaken or assisted by a member of the staff of the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation which by your much appreciated decision of February 17th 1947 was already been given access to archives in Berlin, now in the custody of the Department of State - a permission which, it is understood, has been extended to cover the archives in custody of the United States military authorities in Germany.

"Mr. van Kleffens would like to point out that at this stage his request does not refer to the possibility of examining documents related to the history of the Netherlands East Indies during the second world war. He believes that a decision as to the examination or ultimate disposition of these documents cannot usefully be taken before it is known whether or not they are, in fact, present in the Washington Document Center.

"The scientific work of the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation with regard to Germany has been greatly assisted by the access it has been given to the archives in Berlin and elsewhere in Germany. The Netherlands Government would therefore be grateful if its request pertaining to the Washington Document Center would be given early and favourable consideration."

The Department would appreciate receiving the comments of the Central Intelligence Agency on the above matter in order that an appropriate reply may be made to the Netherlands Embassy.

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UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET
 (SENDER WILL CIRCLE CIA AT TOP AND BOTTOM)
 Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81-00706R000200010039-4

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Asst. Director for Collection		
2	and Dissemination		
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Asst. Director for Operations	7/22	21 July 49
2			
3			

☐ APPROVAL ☐ INFORMATION ☐ SIGNATURE
☒ ACTION ☐ DIRECT REPLY ☐ RETURN
☐ COMMENT ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY ☐ DISPATCH
☐ CONCURRENCE ☐ RECOMMENDATION ☐ FILE

REMARKS: The liaison with the Army on the disposition of these documents is, I believe, within your jurisdiction because almost all of the requested documents have been transferred to Archives or the Library of Congress. FDB has six of the requested documents, which after processing will be turned over to the Archives or Library of Congress unless requested by the Army.

You may wish to consult General Counsel before discussing with Army.

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81-00706R000200010039-4

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81-00706R000200010039-4

TO	INITIALS	DATE
1 Chief, FDB		
2		
3		
4		
5		
FROM	INITIALS	DATE
1 Asst. Dir. for Operations	^(S) J.H.S.	5 Jul 49
2		
3		

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

REMARKS: Please submit your comments as to the present whereabouts of these documents; the joint (allied) ownership, if any; and any legal aspects (directives of State, JCS, SANACC, etc.) which might affect the return of these documents to the Japs.

G.G.C.